

1860

to

1940

Population

of the county were canvassed for donations.

Work was begun in the fall of 1866, and the following spring the building was completed, total cost being \$5,092.16.

After serving as jail and courthouse for five years the building was sold to the Provo Woolen Mills company for \$5,000, payment being accepted in company stock.

A notable event in the history of the little courthouse was the trial, conviction and execution of Chauncey W. Miller who had murdered two men north of Utah lake. The courthouse square was crowded with people at the public execution January 26, 1869.

In May, 1870, the county court called for bids for a new courthouse. Payments were to be made one-third cash, one-third in grain, and one-third in shares of the Provo Woolen Factory, records J. M. Jensen. Work was begun in 1872 and the building completed in 1873 at a cost of \$21,487.80. Provo City had one-fifth interest in the building.

President Brigham Young was present at the dedication.

The courthouse being inadequate to the needs, it was determined in 1919 to erect a city and county building—the present building. Bond elections were held to provide funds. Joseph Nelson was architect. The building, Neoclassic in design, was completed December 15, 1926.

The Tabernacle, a brick structure capable of seating 2500 people, was constructed during the eighties. At a quarterly conference held in September, 1882, H. H. Cluff, J. P. R. Johnson, and J. C. Snyder were named as a building committee, historians relate. Greater part of the work was done under their direction. The tabernacle has been a scene of many notable gatherings. The semi-annual conference of the church was held in October, 1886, at the building, and a reception to President William Howard Taft at the time of his western tour.

In the early history of the city, the small adobe structures served both as school houses and meeting houses. In some cases wards have built and rebuilt several times. At present, each ward has a splendid chapel.

While the priesthood quorums have always been fundamental in the ecclesiastical organizations of the L. D. S. church, the auxiliary organizations have played important roles in the development of the church and its principles.

#### Relief Society

The Relief society was first to be organized, consisting of the women of the church. It began in Provo soon after arrival of the settlers, caring for the sick and relieving distress as occasion required.

Given credit for promoting the first Sunday schools in Provo are William Allen, Bishop Silas Smith and John Leatham. John Leatham was superintendent of the Sunday school started by Bishop Smith which dates from October, 1859.

The Young Men's and the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations were organ-

ized and George C. Bywater, all prominent church men moved to Provo. The move provided the city with a spiritual uplift.

A. O. Smoot was made presiding bishop of the stake and was elected mayor of the city. He became a permanent resident. Elijah F. Sheets, Wilford Woodruff, Joseph F. Smith and George G. Bywater served as members of the city council.

Upon the suggestion of Apostle Erastus Snow and following the lead of several Utah communities, a religious socialist experiment was tried in the establishment of the "United Order of Enoch" in 1874.

Under the arrangement, the best farmer would take charge of a few farmers, the best mechanic of a few mechanics, etc. President Smoot declared the purpose of the order was "to unite the people, to draw them nearer to God, and to eradicate from the people the spirit of covetousness and selfishness."

While the L. D. S. church has always been the predominating church in Provo, as in the entire state, the Catholic church and various Protestant churches are well represented.

#### Growth of Provo's Population in 80 Years

1860	.....	2,030
1870	.....	2,384
1880	.....	3,432
1890	.....	5,159
1900	.....	6,185
1910	.....	8,925
1920	.....	10,303
1930	.....	14,766
1940	.....	18,071

With a great increase in business, the office was given a free delivery system with three carriers.

When A. O. Smoot III was postmaster in 1919 the annual receipts climbed to over \$40,000, and as result the office was elevated to first class.

The growth since that time has been equally as impressive. Postmaster J. P. McGuire in 1923 reported the receipts at \$62,000. The installation of air mail service was a great stimulator of business.

Prior to 1909 the post office occupied rented buildings, but in that year, pursuant to the appropriation by congress in 1906 of \$60,000 for the purpose, the post office at Center street and University avenue (the present city hall) was constructed.

The present post office at First North and First West was completed in the spring of 1938, costing approximately \$225,000.

J. W. Dangerfield, present postmaster, reports business continues to increase, the \$84,962.60 collected last year being the largest amount ever received in a year at the post office.

#### TIMP HIGHEST POINT

Highest point in Utah county is Mt. Timpanogos, 12,008 feet above sea level. The point of lowest altitude in the county, where the Jordan river flows north to empty into Great Salt Lake is only 20 miles southwest of Timpanogos, but at 4,495 feet it lies some 8000 feet below the summit of that peak. Elevation of Provo is 4,512 feet.

announced July 10, 1852, that his double wool-carding machine was in readiness for business. The Indian troubles of 1853 led to the removal of the plant, the next year, to Center and Fifth West street.

Creation of the Provo Manufacturing company, a million dollar concern, was the single illustration of a "big business" attempt in this field, historians point out, and would seem to indicate that the incorporators expected to make Utah's second city a principal industrial center of the Territory.

The company, incorporated January 21, 1853, was given authority to engage "in such manufactures as they shall deem best for the company." Orson Hyde and George A. Smith were the most prominent members identified with the proposition. The company did not realize the high expectations of its promoters, Neff relates in his History of Utah.

## Lake Resort Once Famous

A bathing resort was established in the late eighties on the shores of Utah lake west of Provo, featuring swimming, boating, dancing, etc. It became very popular.

The Provo Lake Resort company was incorporated in 1891 by Isaac Fordonski, Joseph F. Thompson, Charles A. Allen and Elon L. Allen. Later C. E. Loose acquired the property. The resort was finally destroyed by high water.